

"MID-AIR SLEEP" CAUSE OF AVIATORS' DEATHS

**Rodgers Explains Feeling in Air
Which Caused His Accident at
Pasadena—Thinks Fellow Air-
men Were Victims of It.**

Pasadena, Cal., Nov. 17.—A declaration that he went to sleep while in mid-air was made today by Aviator Calbraith P. Rodgers in explaining his machine's fall last Sunday, when he narrowly escaped death.

The scientific name for the trouble which caused sleep, said Rodgers, is "athereal asphyxia, inducing a somni-paethetic condi-



C. P. Rodgers.

tion," Rodgers says he believes it was this same "athereal asphyxia" which caused the deaths of Hoxley, Johnstone, Ely and numerous other airmen.

"Whatever it is," he said, "it lurks in the upper air strata and creeps irresistibly upon the senses of the aviator, fulling him

to sleep. In my case there was no stifling sensation, but I did notice a peculiar odor, not unlike chloroform. I knew I was falling, but did not lose consciousness until a few feet from the ground.

"I first noticed the drowsiness while 1,500 feet high south of Pasadena. I could not shake it off. There was no pain, no noise in my ears—just a soothing feeling. I could not resist it, but somehow I got a grip on myself long enough to start a long glide toward the earth. I got sleepier as I shot down, it seemed, but I righted the machine and was looking for a place to land when I suddenly lost consciousness and the machine fell."

—o—o—

O! when the sun is shining bright
And a fellow feels his oats,
He kind of thinks the whole
world is

The burden that he totes.
He thinks his shadow mighty
long,

His feet prints look like ditches,
His arms are much too short to
scratch

His head-piece when it itches.

But when a fellow wakes at
night

With blackness all about him
He suddenly begins to feel

The world could do without
him.

At three a. m. when all is still

He gets his measure right,

A man is like a needle-point
When held against the night.